BOOK REVIEWS

DON E. WILSON AND ABELARDO SANDOVAL (eds) MANU. 1997 **The Biodiversity of Southeastern Peru; La Biodiversidad del Sureste del Perú.** (ISBN 1-56098-710-3, pbk). Smithsonian Institution Press, 470 L'Enfant Plaza, Washington, DC 20560. $35. 679 pp. Numerous figures, maps. and b/w plates.

This volume of 26 articles by 93 authors and collaborators represents an up-to-date summary of the inventory protocols. flora, and fauna present in the Manu MAB Biosphere Reserve. Located in the Departments of Cusco and Madre de Dios, the area comprises over 1.5 million hectares tropical forest, and has been the site of intensive field biological research since 1987.

The book is divided into three sections: General floristics, flora and fauna. The general floristics not only provides a detailed summary of what is known regarding the vegetation, but a detailed explanation of the sampling protocol employed. The floristic section includes two articles dealing with the mapping and inventory protocols used by the BIOLAT and Smithsonian/MAB office of Biodiversity Programs. These are articles written in an extremely clear style and will be standard references for a long time to come. The Flora section contains seven articles, ranging from topics dealing with forest dynamics, family accounts (Chávez, Londoño, Herrera), and finally a report on the bryoflora (Gradstein). All are first-class treatments, written in a very straightforward, easily usable style, and are exhaustive in their coverage. Finally, the Fauna section contains two subsections, invertebrates (8 articles) and vertebrates (12 articles). The invertebrate section is dominated by entomological and arachnological studies, pointing to the need for studies of other invertebrates, such as annelids, and mollusks. The vertebrate section contains icthyological, herpetological, ornithological, and mammalogical studies, with one study of a dipteran.

Among the papers of the invertebrate subsection, the Silva & Coddington paper on the spiders, and the Morales & McDiarmid paper on amphibians, are particularly notable because of their statistical rigor, relevance to the floristics section, and their foci on comparative analyses with other areas of Peru. The paper on genetic diversity of amphibians, by Córdova et al. is particularly timely and provides baseline data critical for monographers to consider because karyotipic diversity within one general area is discussed.

In summary, this volume is a timely and clearly written summary of our knowledge of the biological diversity present in this mammoth Biosphere. It will not only provide baseline data for the taxonomic groups treated, but will provide fodder for many a grant proposal and the protocols, so clearly explained, make it an excellent choice for a biodiversity measuring and monitoring course. The editors are to be congratulated on still another fine product, and the two program directors involved, Dr. Wilson of the Smithsonian Biodiversity Programs office, and Dr. Dallmeier of Smithsonian/MAB, are to be commended for an outstanding example of long-term collaboration. At $35 for cloth, and less for paper, the book is more than a bargain.—*John J. Pipoly III, Botanical Research Institute of Texas, 509 Pecan Street, Fort Worth, TX 76102-4060, U.S.A.*